

# Community Connection Semi-Annual Town Hall Meeting -- MINUTES

Monday, September 28, 2015 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

White Rock Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall

9220 Ferguson Rd, Dallas, TX 75228 • (214) 324.5116 FRI Office

## FERGUSON ROAD INITIATIVE

*Serving Far East Dallas: Casa Linda/Forest Hills, Greater Casa View, White Rock East, & White Rock Hills Neighborhoods*

### THANKS

A BIG thanks to **Resource One Credit Union** for printing our 2014 Annual Report and **White Rock Church of Christ** for providing a space. And thanks to our many **Volunteers** who help with our meetings. Special thanks to **FRI Business Members!** FRI remains indebted to and values our strategic partnerships with:

- **Stacey Callaway** – our photographer,
- **Cornett Enterprises** – our technology expert,
- **Third Interactive** – our website designer,
- **Design Strategies** – our newsletter editor, and
- **SpeakEasy** – our social media coordinator.

### MEETING PURPOSE

Present for approval the Feasibility Study /Master Plan Report for the WRH Community Recreation Center and update the community on FRI activities.

### MEETING OUTCOMES

1. Meeting Friends, Neighbors, Members and Guests.
2. Updated on FRI Business Matters
3. \*(Action Item) Approved January 27, 2015 Minutes
4. Shared understanding of the DPD/FRI partnership and its activities
5. Welcomed Traci Morgan, our new VISTA volunteer
6. Shared understanding of Senior Hunger Initiative
7. \*(Action Item) Community Approval of the Feasibility Study/Master Plan
8. Congratulated the lucky winner of the drawing!

### ROLES

- **Sponsors:** FRI Board of Directors
- **Facilitator:** Vikki J. Martin, President
- **Scribe:** Mary Wuertz
- **Timekeeper:** John Van Buskirk

### GROUND RULES

- Listen to and respect comments and ideas of others.
- Honor time limits.
- Stick to the agenda.
- Share your experience and perspective.

### DECISION MAKING

We strive for consensus at all of our meetings, and fall back to a majority vote of those present when needed.

### Founder's Circle Members

#### \$10,000 a year for 3 years

- Doctors Hospital @ White Rock Lake

#### \$5,000 a year for 3 years

- Senator & Mrs. John Carona
- Larry & Sue Ingram, McDonalds

#### \$2,500 a year for 3 years

- Laura Berry Boeckman
- Doug Hunt, Access Self-Storage & Truck Rental
- Lone Star Credit Union
- Wolcott Development

#### \$1,000 a year for 3 years

- Anonymous
- Ken Bernstein & Barbara Clay
- Ken Benson & Associates Public Affairs
- Biomat Grifols
- Bishop Lynch High School
- Dr. Ken Cantrell & Teri Pearce
- Casa Pacifica Apartments
- Debbie Chitsey
- Bill & Mirella Coleman
- East Dallas Veterinary Clinic
- Enchanted Hills Apartments
- Trevor & Melissa Fetter
- John & Anne Griggs
- State Representative Eric Johnson
- Dr. & Mrs. William G. Jones
- Karrington & Co.
- Daniel J. Micciche
- Blair Pogue
- Residential Reservices
- Resource One Credit Union
- Allen & Mary Schaar
- Dr. Angela Scheuerle
- Jeff Snoyer, Highland Park Cafeteria
- Ed Snyder
- Villas of Tenison Park
- J.T. & Nayna Walker
- Walgreens
- Wells Fargo, Casa Linda Branch
- Young Chevrolet

## PARTICIPANTS

### FRI Members:

- LaRue Adkins, CANA
- Evangelina Ayala, CANA
- Ken Benson, Highland on the Creek
- Brad Boling, Alger Park Ash Creek NA
- Robert Brown, CANA
- Debbie Chitsey, Lakeland Hills CW
- Bill Coleman, FRI
- Leela Cooper, Hillridge
- Pamela Cooper, Hillridge
- Harold Cronton – Access Storage
- Theresa Daniel, County Commissioner
- Ruby L Dickson, CANA
- Elizabeth Dry, Promise of Peace
- Vail Fassett – Little Forest Hills NA
- Carol Gardner, CANA
- Diana Gilbert, Lakeland Hills CW
- Kerry Goodwin, State Rep. Eric Johnson's Office
- Kimberly Humphries, Truett CW
- Jan Johnson, Arturo Lane
- Dr. William G. Jones, FHNA, FRI
- Neely Kerr, Casa View Oaks NW
- Georgia King, Truett CW
- Sidney King, Truett CW
- Mari Madison, Casa View Oaks NW
- Vikki Martin, CANA, FRI
- Daniel Micciche, Emerald Isle
- Nicole Miller, Lakeland Hills CW
- Willie Morgan- Lone Star Credit Union
- Dan Ortman, FHNA, FRI
- Mel Renfro, CANA
- Liz Renfro, CANA
- Joyce Smith, CANA
- Stanley Smith, Lakeland Hills CW
- Ed Snyder, Lakeland Hills CW
- Jeanna Streeter, CANA
- Olivier Swinnen, R1CU
- John Trimble, Lakeland Hills CW
- Gusteen Trimble, Lakeland Hills CW
- Maria Valenzuela, CANA, FRI
- John Van Buskirk, CANA
- Debbie Van Zant, Casa Linda Estates
- Susan Walker, Lakeland Hills CW
- Nancy Weber, Lakeland Hills CW
- Dolores Wolfe, Estates @ Forest Hills
- Gerry Worrall
- Phil Wuertz, Highlands on the Creek
- Mary Wuertz, Highlands on the Creek
- Tiffinni Young, City Council, Dist 7
- Louise Elam, Parks & Recreation
- Rosalina Ferguson
- Cannon Flowers, Snr Affairs Appointee, Dist 7
- Ray Gilliam, Casa View Oaks NW
- Octavia Griffin
- Wyonella Henderson-Greene, TX Hunger Initiative
- Royce Herndon, Directions
- Officer Michael Hicks, DPD
- Bill Hogan, Lakeland Hills CW
- Mary Hogan, Lakeland Hills CW
- Charles Hollingsworth, FHNA
- Jerry Hunt, Eastwood Hills
- Marc Jacobson, Baylor
- Milton Jaresh, Lakeland Hills CW
- Madlen Jaresh, Lakeland Hills CW
- Michael Jung, Plan Commissioner, Dist 9
- Ron Koen, White Rock Village CW
- Diana Koen, White Rock Village CW
- LaRue Adkins, CANA
- Janie Libscomb, CANA
- Parris Long, Adm. Assist. to Tiffinni Young, Dist 7
- Owen Lynch
- Korey Mack, Buckner Terrance NA
- Diane Maguire, Senior Source
- Traci Morgan, VISTA
- Linda Newland, CANA
- Brittany Nunn, Advocate
- John Olson, FHNA
- Off. Gabriel Ortiz, DPD
- Elise Phillips, Hillridge
- Doug Price, Casa View Heights
- Bob Quaglia, FHNA
- Caron Ann Ravert, White Rock Forest NA
- Jeff Robertson, YMCA, WR Branch
- Off. Katherine Robinson, DPD
- Alice Salas, Truett CW
- Pat Sanchez, White Rock Lake Weekly
- Israel Slivas, FHNA
- Stacie Slivas, FHNA
- Tim Simmonds, FHNA
- Scott Smith, Hillridge
- Mary Sparks, Snr Affairs Appointee, Dist 9
- Desi Tanner, Truett CW
- Jeff Thiebeault, Braeburn Glen CW
- Candace Thompson, Jubilee Center
- Fred Welsh
- Willis Winter, Parks & Recreation, Dir
- Daniel Wood, Buckner Terrace NA
- Miles Zitmore, Casa Linda Estates

### FRI Guests:

- DCP Andrew Acord, DPD
- Susan Ayoob
- Mitchell Boone, WRUMC
- Stacey Callaway, CANA
- Mike Clark
- Mark Clayton, City Council, Dist 9
- Daniel Clayton
- Denise Corant-Murray
- Mary Crockhom, White Rock Village CW
- Tom Cunlon
- Gary Dill, Primrose @ Highland Meadows
- Linda Downey, CANA

## MINUTES

6:30      **Welcome** — Meet & Greet Friends and Neighbors!

6:50      **FRI Business & Announcements**

- Vikki welcomed the community, reviewed the handouts; agenda, 2014 FRI Annual Report, ACA Enrollment, Hunger Initiative/SNAP program, & crime statistics from DPD.
- She thanked Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake for offering a \$10,000 Challenge Grant during the summer, and commended the community for matching the grant with an additional \$10,000.
- She also thanks the contributors to North Texas Giving Day on Sept 17. FRI earned \$7,500 from over 80 donors!
- Community News:
  - **Uplift Charter School has an option to purchase the property at 7203 Ferguson Road, the old Howard Johnson Motel** that was demolished in 2002. There will be a town hall meeting to review this project and to approve the SUP prior to the project going before the City Plan Commission. The school will be a \$6M investment in the community and will give our families a choice of schools outside of DISD
    - **Update:** *A community town hall meeting was held on November 3 at the White Rock Hills Townhome Apartments, 7229 Ferguson Road, and was unanimously approved by the 25 attendees at the meeting.*
  - **Reconstruction of Highland Road** is slated for spring 2016. This will be about a \$3M project and will include sidewalks, storm sewers, curbs and will go from Ferguson Road to the Primrose at Highland Meadows Senior Housing Apartments. Vikki thanked Gary Dill for his persistence in getting this project underway. Gary lives at the Primrose and is a Crime Watch advocate.
- Vikki asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2015 FRI Community Connection Town Hall meeting. Susan Walker made the motion and John Van Buskirk seconded it. **The motion passed.**
- Dan Micchiche, our School Board Trustee, reminded the community that there will be a November election to pass the School Bond program. He encouraged everyone to come out and vote to support our public schools.
  - **Update:** *The School Bond Program passed on November 3.*
- Vikki announced that Keith Young of Young Chevrolet was not able to attend our meeting, but was pleased to announce that Augusta Lloyd won the Texas Road Trip Contest. She won \$1000 for her trip, but Young Chevrolet also generously made a \$1000 gift to FRI. *"Young Chevrolet is very pleased to make this contribution in support of FRI for all the good work that the organization does for the community and for your tireless efforts to make our area of Dallas a better place to live,"* said Keith Young.

7:00      **Recognize Members & Guests**

- Vikki recognized our elected and appointed officials
- **Chief Andrew Acord was introduced and spoke** about the re-establishment of a DPD/FRI partnership where DPD will present a dashboard or snapshot of crime in the FRI area on a quarterly basis. When FRI was receiving federal W & S money we were able to hire staff support to track crime and help coordinate law enforcement efforts. FRI no longer has the capacity to do this. However, FRI is still committed to crime prevention. By working together in partnership with DPD we will be looking at different kinds of crime statistics to track by DPD and include them in FRI newsletters and communications. Chief Acord stressed the importance of community partnerships in our neighborhoods such as
  - Crime Watch and Volunteers In Patrol.

- He passed out crime statistics that tracked overall Part I and II Crimes in the FRI area from 2011 (when *W & S* funding ended) to 2014.
- Crime in Far East Dallas remains the same or lower over the last 3 years proving that *W & S* dollars were effective for this community in *weeding out* crime.
- **Traci Morgan was introduced** as the FRI VISTA volunteer and has been assigned p/t to our community through the Mayor's GrowSouth Initiative. Tracy is working to help increase Crime Watch participation in the area.
- **Diane Maguire with the Senior Source made a presentation** on the Senior Hunger Initiative for zip code 75228. The goal is to enroll 900 qualified senior citizens in the SNAP (Senior Nutritional Assistance Program) over the next 12 month. For more information about SNAP call 214.269.0906 or visit The Wilkinson Center, 3402 N. Buckner Blvd., Suite 302, Dallas, TX, Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. – Noon or Friday, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- **Vikki announced there would be a drawing** at the end of the meeting for a free roundtrip ticket from Southwest Airlines.

7:15

#### WRH Community Recreation Center

1. Project Update ..... Vikki Martin, FRI
2. Project Phasing..... Chappell Jordan, Jacobs
3. Fundraising Strategy.....Bill Coleman, FRI
4. Next Steps & Timeline ..... Willis Winters, PARD
5. Q & A
  - **HIGHLAND ROAD**
    - **Would Highland Road be widened, and how far does the sidewalk extend on Highland road?** **RESPONSE:** *No, Highland Road would not be widened. It would remain two-laned. There will be sidewalks on each side, curbing, and storm sewers and would run from Ferguson Road to the Primrose Senior Housing Apartments.*
  - **TRAFFIC**
    - **Has any study been done on the traffic flow on Highland Road? I'm concerned that people who live on or just off Highland or San Rafael will be impacted by the traffic, making it more challenging to enter or exit their driveways or developments.** **RESPONSE:** *It is too early to conduct a traffic study at this time. However, once funding is received for design and construction, then traffic mitigation would be a part of that process. The Park Dept will have to involve the City Transportation and Streets to make sure that we have a plan to prevent accidents from happening due to ingress and egress.*
    - **Is there going to be access from Ferguson Road?** *Not at this time. However, this would be an admirable goal and remains within the realm of possibility.*
  - **RECREATION CENTER**
    - **Is the Recreation Center still going to have the Hippo Mart and the trailer park next to it?** **RESPONSE:** *If we can identify a master developer, there is the possibility that all or part of the commercial property adjacent to the site fronting Ferguson Road can be purchased and utilized in conjunction with the CENTER, for access or other usages. As for the trailer park, that property is located at the railroad tracks and not next to the CENTER. The property is currently for sale and the owner wants several million dollars for it.*
    - **How do we know that the rest of the county will be favorable to a project which benefits only our immediate area?** **RESPONSE:** *This is not a county project and the funding for the initial phase of the CENTER would only be part of the proposed city-wide Parks Dept Bond package.*

- **Who would run the CENTER? Who's in charge?** **RESPONSE:** *The CENTER would initially be the responsibility of the Dallas Parks and Recreation Dept, but we are all very optimistic that a public-private partnership will evolve in which the management agreement and development right would be assigned to a 501c3 nonprofit organization created for this purpose, in a model similar to that used for the Klyde Warren Park downtown.*
  - **Would the Urban Farm be contributing/paying annually for usage of the land? Facility?** **RESPONSE:** *It is not anticipated that significant revenue will be generated from the Farm, as the products of this endeavor will be used to benefit the residents of Far East Dallas.*
  - **Is \$50M the entire project or just the Urban Farm?** **RESPONSE:** *It is for the entire project.*
- **BOND PROGRAM**
    - **How will this bond project be sold to the whole City?** **RESPONSE:** *If a decision is made to make the CENTER part of the proposed 2017 Bond Program it would not be placed on the program as a standalone project. It would instead be packaged as one of several items that would serve the Park Department.*
- **501c3 WHITE ROCK HILLS COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER COMMITTEE**
    - **What are the plans to get the nonprofit started?** **RESPONSE:** *The White Rock Hills Community Recreation Center Committee has already been registered with the Texas Secretary of State, and an application completed for 501c3 nonprofit status.*
    - **Who will have input and on the board? How will people outside of the nonprofit have input?** **RESPONSE:** *As the project evolves, there will be many opportunities for members to become involved and participate in all aspects of the CENTER including the nonprofit committee. The best way to get started now is to become or maintain your membership in FRI and continue to read the FRI communications and attend the FRI meetings. You can register for free at [www.fergusonroad.org](http://www.fergusonroad.org) on the home page to begin receiving free periodic news regarding events and information regarding Far East Dallas. Just click on NewsFlash.*
- The PowerPoint from the presentation will be posted on the FRI web site once it is approved by the Park Board.

8:00

#### Wrap Up

- Susan Walker made the motion to approve Study/Master Plan and Carol Gardner seconded it, **the community approved it unanimously, with no objections**
- FRI asked the community to rate their level of support for the WRH Community Recreation Center on the ranking sheet provided to each participant. On a scale from 1-7 with 1=Strongly Opposed and 7=Strongly Supported, the results were as follows:

Strongly Opposed	Opposed	Somewhat Opposed	Neither support or opposed	Somewhat Support	Support	Strongly Support
0	0	0	0	1	9	32

- Community Comments:
  - “Looking forward to its success!” Bob Quaglia, FHNA
  - “This will be a great catalyst for the revitalization of East Dallas.” Mari Madison, Casa View Oaks NW
  - “East Dallas definitely needs a focal point and anchor in this part of our neighborhood. Especially entering right off of the expressway coming into the White Rock Hills and White Rock East areas. I totally back and believe in this project.” Desi Tanner, Truett CW
  - “I am happy to be a part of this extraordinary community and supporting this great project.” Evangelina Ayala, CANA
  - “A bike lane on Highland Road between the CENTER and the lake would be great!” Anonymous
  - “Timeframe is very stretched, 2012.” Anonymous
  - “An amazing opportunity to put Far East Dallas on the map while meeting the needs of so many. A win on every front!” Mitchell Boone, WRUMC
  - “I am excited about the future of this center and the difference it will make in the lives of future children and seniors.” Nicole Miller, Lakeland Hills CW
  - “Great steps forward for the community!” Anonymous
  - “The Recreation Center will make East Dallas a destination, and allow the rest of Dallas to experience the beauty that is in our community.” Dolores Wolfe, Estates @ Forest Hills
  - “Should the feasibility study be approved and the bond package passed, you have my approval.” Georgia King, Truett CW
  - Supporting the project: Stanley Smith, Ray Gilliam, Jeana Streeter, Gary Dill, Mel & Liz Renfro, Tim Simmonds, Daniel Wood, Debbie Van Zant, Diana Gilbert, Susan Walker, Ed Snyder.

#### **8:10 FRI Membership Drawing**

- *Winner:* Joes Cleaners (Declined)
- *First Runner Up:* William Aheron (Declined)
- *Second Runner Up:* Mary Madison (Accepted!)

#### **8:15 Adjourn**

#### **2016 Annual Election of Officers and Directors for the Ferguson Road Initiative**

If you are interested in serving on the FRI Board please contact FRI Secretary Bill Coleman at [billmcoleman@earthlink.net](mailto:billmcoleman@earthlink.net) who will send you an application, oath and list of committees for your review. If you are interested, please fill out this information and return to Bill.

The FRI Nominating Committee shall have the duty of proposing a slate of officers to be elected at the FRI Annual Meeting in 2016. The Committee is chaired by Bill Coleman and shall name two board directors and one non-director member. The members of the Nominating Committee shall choose a person from their group to serve as Chairperson.

Additional names may be placed in nomination by any member of the FRI organization to the Nominating Committee, but such nominations must be received in writing by the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee at least ten calendar days prior to the scheduled date of the FRI Annual Meeting. *Such nominations must include the signatures of the persons making the nomination(s) and seconding nomination(s), plus the written permission of the nominee(s). Nominations meeting these criteria will then be added to the ballot for voting at the FRI Annual Meeting.*

Nominees elected at the FRI Annual Meeting shall be installed by the outgoing President at the first Board meeting following the FRI Annual Meeting.

**Attachments:** DPD Crime Statistics, SNAP Program information. The 2014 Annual Report can be viewed on our web site at: [Click Here for the FRI 2014 Annual Report](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Meeting	Purpose	When	Where
1. <b>Uplift Charter School Town Hall Meeting</b>	Learn about the Uplift School & SUP Rezoning	Nov. 3, 2015 6-7:30 pm	White Rock Hills Townhome Apts., 9227 Ferguson Rd., Red Leasing Office
2. <b>Friends of WRH Library Reception</b>	Meet Arick Doyle, WRH Library Architect	Nov. 7, 2015 2-3 pm	White Rock Hills Branch Library 9150 Ferguson Rd
3. <b>FRI Community Connection Town Hall Meeting and Annual Election</b>	FRI Updates	Jan/Feb TBD	TBD

